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General

Syria is located in the Middle East bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Lebanon and Turkey.

The climate is mostly desert with hot, dry, sunny summers and mild, rainy winters along the coast.

The terrain is primarily semi-arid and desert plateau with narrow coastal plains rising to mountains in the W.

Buoyage System

IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Syrian pound, consisting of 100 piastres.

Government

Syria is a republic under a left-wing military regime since March 1963. The capital is Damascus.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

March 8, Revolution Day; Easter; Apr. 17, Independence Day; May 1, Labor Day; Martyrs' Day; Oct. 6, War of October; and Dec. 25, Christmas Day.

The following Moslem holidays, the dates of which vary from year to year and are subject to the appearance of the moon, are observed: Mohammedan New Year; Prophet's Birthday; Ramadan; and Adha Bayram.

Industries

The main industries include textiles, food processing, beverages, tobacco, petroleum, and phosphate rock mining.

Languages

The official language is Arabic. Kurdish, Armenian, Aramaic, Circassian, and French are widely understood.

Pilotage

Calling at Syrian ports should also contact the appropriate pilot station or signal tower when entering Syrian territorial waters and give the following information:

1. Ship's name.
2. Nationality.
3. Nature of cargo.
4. ETA at the Waiting Zone.

Regulations

Vessels calling at Syrian ports are required to communicate the following information, through a Syrian coast radio station, when 50 miles off the Syrian coast:

1. Ship's name (and former name, if any).
2. Nationality.

3. Characteristics (i.e. type of vessel).
4. Position and time.
5. Maritime passage (route) to port of call.
6. Speed.

Normal international courtesies, such as flying the flag of Syria at the foremast, should be carefully adhered to while in the waters and ports of Syria.

U.S. Navy ships will comply with U.S. Navy regulations and/or appropriate instructions.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is BRAVO (-2).

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Abou Roumaneh, A1-Mansur Street No. 2, Damascus.

The mailing address is P.O. Box 29, Damascus.